

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 07234 041651Z

41

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9598

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

S E C R E T ABIDJAN 7234

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, MILI, GV, SG, IV

SUBJ: GUINEAN SECURITY PARANOIA

REF: (A) CONAKRY 1538 (B) ABIDJAN 5944 (NOTAL)

1. WHILE I BELIEVE PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY WOULD BE EXTREMELY PLEASED TO HEAR THAT GUINEA HAS DECIDED TO DISCONTINUE SOVIETRECONNAISSANCE AGAINST U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET FROM GUINEAN AIRFIELDS, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD IN ANY WAY CHANGE HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD SEKOU TOURE. HOUPHOUET AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN CATEGORICAL IN THEIR DENIALS OF ANY PREPARATIONS ON IVOIRIAN SOIL FOR AGGRESSION AGAINST GUINEA, EITHER BY IVORIANS OR BY GUINEAN REFUGEES (SEE REFTEL B). THE PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC STATEMENT OF JUNE 25, FOLLOWING A LONG RESPONSE TO THE PRESS IN PARIS IN EARLY MAY, WAS INTENDED TO PUT THAT CHARGE TO REST. HE EVEN INVITED SEKOU TOURE TO SEND OBSERVERS INTO IVORY COAST TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES. THERE HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN NO RESPONSE. AT THE SAME TIME, HOUPHOUET IS UNWILLING TO ALLOW EXTRADITION OF GUINEANS FROM IVORY COAST. HOUPHOUET HAS ALSO REITERATED MANY TIMES HIS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ABIDJA 07234 041651Z

WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH SEKOU TOURE,

WHOM HE STILL CONSIDERS AS ONE OF HIS CLOSE "BROTHERS.("

2. GOIC CONTINUES TO RESENT OUR GIVING BILATERAL AID TO GUINEA, AN UNFRIENDLY COUNTRY. I EVEN HEARD THIS AGAIN IN ONE OF MY FAREWELL CALLS THIS WEEK. I POINTED OUT THAT OUR AID TO GUNIEA HAS BEEN ALMOST NON-EXISTENT IN RECENT YEARS AND EVEN MENTIONED THE WITHHOLDING OF PL 480 IN VIEW OF REPORTS OF SOVIET RECONNAISSANCE FROM GUINEAN AIRFIELDS. IT WOULD NOT BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THIS EMBASSY TO INFORM HOUPHOUET OF THE NEW GUINEAN POSITION. I DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD ELICIT ANY DIFFERENT RESPONSE TO GUINEAN RUMORS THAT THERE IS PREPARATION FOR AGGRESSION FROM IVORIAN SOIL OR TO GUINEAN REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, PERHPAS IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR AMBASSADOR HARROP TO REMIND GOG OF HOUPHOUET'S JUNE 25 SPEECH AND SUGGEST THAT TOURE TAKE UP HOUPHOUET'S OFFER TO SEND OBSERVERS TO IVORY COAST. THIS WOULD ALSO BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY OF ENCOUARGING AFRICANS TO WORK OUT THEIR OWN PROBLEMS.

SMITH

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NNN

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